

## The Root causes of Poverty

### **INTRODUCTION – Why is this a Global Justice Issue?**

In order to combat the root causes of corruption, numerous actions need to be enacted simultaneously. There ought to be an improvement in the government capacity to provide universal access to essential goods and services to an area, such as potable water, affordable food, healthcare, education, housing and other social services. In addition to rooting out corruption, there needs to be broadened access to education and technology among marginalized groups, especially among girls and women.

### **GLOBAL GOAL INDICATOR:**

Global Goal no. 1 (Target 1.1 – 1.3)

### **SUGGESTED LEARNING INTENTIONS:**

Students will be able to:

- explore the factors that can determine, lead to and perpetuate poverty
- determine which members of our society are most vulnerable
- understand the differences and circumstances of short- and long-term poverty

### **SUGGESTED AREA OF FOCUS:**

- Inadequate access to clean water + nutritious food
- Conflict
- Overpopulation
- Climate change
- Overexploitation of resources
- Inequality
- Lack of infrastructure + reserves
- Limited capacity of or corruption within the Government

### **SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS:**

- Business Studies
- Politics and Society
- Religious Education
- English, Irish, French, German, Spanish, etc
- Maths
- Home Economics
- Geography
- History

## TY MODULE:

**Module name:** Proudly Made in Africa – A Business Studies and Development Education unit

**Overview:** Learners will explore..... Learners will find out more about about the trade links between Africa and Ireland. Learners will explore some of the perspectives of people, and will examine how individuals have overcome barriers to forming successful businesses. Learners will get the chance to consider the options available in seeking ways to combat poverty through trade.

**Content:** This TY module is made up of 14 core learning activities, 3 extension activities and 2 literacy activities. Each activity has a descriptor highlighting various details such as aims, key skills and online sources. Many activities also come with Task Sheets for learners and Teacher Sheets with supporting information.

**Link:**[http://www.proudlymadein africa.org/images/uploads/docs/PMIA A Business Studies Development Education Transition Unit Resource Pack \(PDF\).pdf](http://www.proudlymadein africa.org/images/uploads/docs/PMIA A Business Studies Development Education Transition Unit Resource Pack (PDF).pdf)

## TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS

### 1. Classroom resource: What Matters Most

**Link:**[https://www.globaleducation.edu.au/verve/resources/What\\_Matters\\_Most\\_-\\_web\\_file.pdf](https://www.globaleducation.edu.au/verve/resources/What_Matters_Most_-_web_file.pdf)

### 2. Classroom resource: No Poverty – Educational Resource for Teachers & Facilitators

**Overview:** In this resource you will find ways in which to introduce students to the epidemic of poverty, its causes and consequences and the work Concern Worldwide is doing to tackle poverty and suffering in some of the world's poorest countries.

**Content:** This educational resource includes 4 activities that can be used by teachers in class to deepen student's knowledge and awareness of the root causes of poverty.

**Link:**<https://developmenteducation.ie/app/uploads/2018/12/Concern-3.-No-Poverty-Resource.pdf>

## SIMULATION ACTIVITIES

**Name of activity:** Who gets a fair share?

**Booklet:** A Transition Year resource for teachers (Financial Justice Ireland)

**Aim:** Students will be able to contrast preconceived notions of global demographics to factual statistics.

**Overview:** This lesson explores how unequal the world is through the distribution of resources.

**Link:** <http://www.worldwiseschools.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Workshop-on-Inequality.pdf>

## SHORT VIDEO CLIPS/ PODCASTS

- 1. World Vision (Australia)** – This animation examines the physical and human factors that cause poverty and impact on human well-being. It also highlights the spatial variation in human well-being through a comparison of Australia and Timor-Leste.  
**Link:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCUhFFQ\\_ZRA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCUhFFQ_ZRA)
- 2. The School of life** – A short clip on the reason why some countries are rich and others poor depends on many things, including the quality of their institutions, the culture they have, the natural resources they find and what latitude they're on.  
**Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-4V3HR696k>
- 3. Ted Talks: The hidden reason for poverty the world needs to address now** (Gary Haugen)  
**Content:** Civil rights lawyer Gary Haugen, outlines the case for tackling poverty through law enforcement and effective public systems of justice rather than Anti-poverty programmes. Yet for all the world's aid money, the problem of violence, including domestic abuse and sexual violence remain a pervasive hidden problem keeping poverty alive in the world today.  
**Link:**[https://www.ted.com/talks/gary\\_haugen\\_the\\_hidden\\_reason\\_for\\_poverty\\_the\\_world\\_needs\\_to\\_address\\_now/discussion#t-96936](https://www.ted.com/talks/gary_haugen_the_hidden_reason_for_poverty_the_world_needs_to_address_now/discussion#t-96936)
- 4. Ted Talks: The story we tell about poverty isn't true** (Mia Birdsong)  
**Content:** As a global community, we all want to end poverty. Mia Birdsong suggests a great place to start: Let's honor the skills, drive and initiative that poor people bring to the struggle every day. She asks us to look again at people in poverty: They may be broke — but they're not broken.  
**Link:**[https://www.ted.com/talks/mia\\_birdsong\\_the\\_story\\_we\\_tell\\_about\\_poverty\\_isn\\_t\\_true](https://www.ted.com/talks/mia_birdsong_the_story_we_tell_about_poverty_isn_t_true)
- 5. Ted Talks: New insights on poverty** (Hans Rosling)  
**Content:** Researcher Hans Rosling uses his cool data tools to show how countries are pulling themselves out of poverty. He demos Dollar Street, comparing households of varying income levels worldwide. Then he does something really amazing.  
**Link:**[https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_reveals\\_new\\_insights\\_on\\_poverty?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_reveals_new_insights_on_poverty?language=en)
- 6. Global Wealth Inequality** – What you never knew you never knew.  
**Link:** <https://developmenteducation.ie/feature/exploring-the-shape-of-our-world-today/wealth-and-poverty/>

## Documentaries:

**Title:** **The End of Poverty?** (Joseph Stiglitz, Susan George, Chalmers Johnson)

**Content:** Global poverty did not just happen. It began with military conquest, slavery and colonization that resulted in the seizure of land, minerals and forced labor. Today, the problem persists because of unfair debt, trade and tax policies - in other words, wealthy countries taking advantage of poor, developing countries. Renowned actor and activist, Martin Sheen, narrates *The End of Poverty?*, a feature-length documentary directed by award-winning director, Philippe Diaz, which explains how today's financial crisis is a direct consequence of these unchallenged policies that have lasted centuries.

**Link:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=itlYyuJjACw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itlYyuJjACw)

**Title:** **Recycled Life**

**Content:** *Recycled Life* is a 2006 American short documentary film directed by Leslie Iwerks. It relays the story of a massive toxic landfill near Guatemala City and the it's residents.

## INFORMATION WEBSITES:

**Name of Org:** **Oxfam**

**Offers:** This link provides information on the facts in relation to global poverty

**Link:** <https://www.worldvision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts>

**Name of Org:** **World Vision**

**Who:** A global Christian humanitarian organization who works with children, families, and their communities to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

**Offers:** The link below provides information on the facts in relation to global poverty

**Link:** <https://www.worldvision.org/sponsorship-news-stories/global-poverty-facts>

**Name of Org:** **Global Issues**

**Who:** This website showcases articles on global issues including trade, poverty and globalization, to human rights, geopolitics, the environment, and much more. Within these articles, are over 7,000 links to external articles, web sites, reports and analysis to help provide credence to the arguments made on the web site.

**Offers:** The link below provides information on the 'Causes of Poverty'

**Link:** <http://www.globalissues.org/issue/2/causes-of-poverty>

**Name of Org:** **The Borgen Project**

**Who:** A non-profit organization that works to address and end global poverty and hunger.

**Offers:** An array of articles and short videos on the causes, challenges and solutions of global poverty.

**Link:** <https://borgenproject.org/global-poverty/>

**Financial Justice Ireland:** <https://www.financialjustice.ie/>

**Who:** They campaign predominantly on global debt and tax justice but engage too on the debate on trade – and its contribution to global inequality.

**Global Justice now** - Join the fight against corporate courts

**Petition** - <https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/corporate-courts>

### **ACTIONS - CREATING CHANGE**

**Empower and encourage learners to:**

- ✓ engage in anti-poverty action and see its importance in engendering a just and equal society
- ✓ interact with organisations /community groups that have an anti-poverty focus
- ✓ foster respect, understanding and empathy towards people who may be marginalised in our society
- ✓ call or write to your local TD's, and ask them to make sure Ireland continues to work towards achieving an end to world poverty or arrange a meeting with politicians. attend events where TDs are speaking and publicly ask them to support poverty-reduction efforts. send your leader a video of constituents requesting action on a bill.
- ✓ contact your local radio station
- ✓ write some interesting articles and facts about global poverty in the school newsletter and local newspaper and email interesting story ideas that incorporate the issues to local and national reporters.
- ✓ write on social media – follow influential people and people in power and encourage them to support policies in favour of mitigating poverty or post encouraging comments when they support poverty bills. share interesting links, videos and articles about the issues via your status updates on social media.
- ✓ observe international day for the eradication of poverty on the 17th October each year
- ✓ organise peer to peer global poverty workshops

- ✓ reduce their waste – food waste is linked to global poverty. consumers increase the demand for food by purchasing excess food causing food prices to rise and makes food less affordable for others
- ✓ buy fair trade and other ethically sources products – offering people decent prices for their produce can help to support jobs, improve living conditions for producers, their families and the community
- ✓ join climate chaos – climate change hits the poorest people the hardest, those living in vulnerable areas with the fewest resources to help them adapt or recover quickly. as the effects of climate change worsen, escaping poverty becomes more difficult
- ✓ campaign for solutions for peace - chaos, violence, and devastation of warfare and political violence is one of the leading causes of poverty
- ✓ organise a drama/play in your school or local community to let people know about the issue.
- ✓ make leaflets, posters display board or video and show it to people in school and in the local community.
- ✓ research which organisations or groups are working on this issue and join their local, national or global campaigns.
- ✓ make a powerpoint, photo or video presentation in school or use social media to provide discussion about the issue and get people talking about it.
- ✓ make your views known to someone in a powerful position (this could be a local councillor or TD). write an e-mail or letter, collect names on a petition and send it to them, or arrange a visit to them.
- ✓ invite someone who is knowledgeable about the issue to come in and talk to the school.